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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Dessau Airfield

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EVALUATION

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. Between 30 October and 30 November 1952, about 47 ground attack planes and 1 biplane were observed at Dessau airfield. It was repeatedly observed that maintenance was performed on the aircraft. During this activity, the cooling water was drained off. Subsequently, anti-freezing agents were apparently put in.¹ On 11 and 12 December, planes circled over the field. These flights were possibly connected with the construction of a new radio installation with one mast, about 20 meters high, about 100 meters west of the flight control building.
2. In early December, five bunkers, apparently for the newly erected AA gun emplacement, were under construction about 200 meters east of the flight control station, 50 meters north of the railroad line. Six 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement.² Three garages, each about 6 x 16 meters large and consisting of four revetments were under construction about 350 meters north of the western end of the runway.

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4. On 16, 21 and 28 November, 47 IL-10s and 1 biplane were counted at the field.¹ Between 10 and 28 November, the weather was almost continuously bad.
5. In late November, three large wooden sheds on the northern edge of the field were completed. These sheds which had no doors were still unoccupied. Next to the buildings there was a watchtower, 6 to 8 meters high, which was not occupied in late November. Thirteen revetments were under construction about 300 meters west of this watchtower. Six trucks and two tractors with trailers each hauled sand from a mound east of the field to the revetments under construction and to the other revetments in the western and southwestern corners of the field. An officer, 2 NCOs wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 6 to 8 EM wearing red-bordered black or black-bordered blue epaulets were daily observed loading these vehicles.
6. At about 4 p.m. on 9 November, the weather was rainy. No air activity was observed. The aircraft were parked at the field and covered with tarpaulins. One ground attack plane without engine and one biplane were observed between the ground attack aircraft.

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7. The guns in the AA gun emplacement east of the parked aircraft were also covered with tarpaulins. A range finder was observed in the middle of the emplacement. Seven trucks were parked in one row east of the emplacement.²
8. On 9 November, 18 completed shrapnelproof aircraft revetments were counted on the northern edge of the field. Additional revetments were under construction there. Buildings were located east of the revetments.
9. The following observations were made at the field between 7 and 30 November 1952:

7 November. In the morning, the weather was foggy, in the afternoon, the weather was dull with intermittent rain showers. Two biplanes took off from the field at 10:50 a.m., circled over Dessau and landed at 11:17 and 11:25 a.m. No more flights were made. In the afternoon, source counted 47 ground attack planes and 2 biplanes, all covered with tarpaulings, at the field.¹

8 November. There was ground frost and foggy weather up to 10 a.m. with intermittent drizzle. Two planes with the numbers 6 and 9 took off at 11:05 a.m., circled and flew some aerobatics over the town and landed at 11:40 a.m. Source observed from the railroad line that 49 ground attack planes and 2 biplanes were parked at the field.

9 November. A biplane took off at 10:35 a.m. and landed at 10:55 a.m. There was cool weather with drizzle. No additional air activity was observed at the field.

10 November. In the afternoon, the overcast broke up, but no flights were made.

11 November. At 9:45 a.m., 51 ground attack planes and 1 biplane were counted at the field.

12 November. There was no air activity.

30 November. [REDACTED] four times along the field border and observed the arrangement of the planes [REDACTED]

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10. On 29 November, logs and sand were hauled to an area in the western section of the field which was called "Sauere Wiesen". On 30 November, 16 completed shrapnelproof aircraft revetments were observed on the northern edge of the field and 18 completed revetments on the southern and southwestern edges.
11. A board fence, about 2.5 meters high, surrounded almost the entire airfield except for the western side which was still open in mid-November.
12. On 22 November, a fuel or lubricating oil dump, located on the railroad siding along Dessau-Alten road, was being vacated. The entire stock was being transferred to barrels and hauled to a wooded area in the western section of the field. Three large containers, each about 5 meters long, 2.5 meters high, were being unloaded at the vacated full dump on 29 November.
13. During the second half of November, two sentries were daily observed in the southwestern corner of the field.³
14. [REDACTED]
1. Comment. Dessau airfield was believed to have been occupied by a ground attack regiment which left the airfield by the end of December 1952. The new location of the regiment is believed to be Brandis.
2. Comment. The AA gun emplacement is known. AA batteries of six 37-mm guns each were repeatedly observed to be supplied by seven trucks. The AA gun emplacement

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mentioned in the present report is the only one previously observed in Dessau, while three AA batteries equipped with 37-mm guns were repeatedly observed at Stendal and Doeberitz airfields which are also occupied by ground attack planes. It has not been determined whether Dessau airfield is occupied by three batteries or only one battery.

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